

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ELAB, PO

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO GOP DECREE ON WORKER CONTROL

REF: LISBON 4589

1. PORTUGUESE POLITICAL PARTIES AND UNIONS ARE TAKING POSITIONS ON GOP DECREE DEFINING WORKER CONTROL (REFTEL). REACTIONS RANGE FROM REPUDIATION BY FAR LEFT, PCP, AND INTERSINDICAL TO APPROVAL BY SOCIALIST AND POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. SAMPLE REACTIONS:

A) FAR LEFT: INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST LEAGUE (LCI) AND LEFT SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (MES) LABELLED DECREE AN "OFFENSIVE OF THE BOURGEOISIE". MES COMMUNIQUE OUTLINED POSSIBLE METHODS OF WORKER "NON-COMPLIANCE".

B) PCP: CALLED DECREE "UNACCEPTABLE MEASURE ENACTED BY A MORIBUND GOVERNMENT THAT DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT INTERESTS, ASPIRATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF WORKERS". DECREE VIOLATES INTENTIONS OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND ARTICLES 55 AND 56 OF CONSTITUTION. PCP URGED ASSEMBLY OF REPUBLIC TO TAKE SWIFT MEASURES TO REMEDY
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SITUATION.

C) INTERSINDICAL: THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED LABOR CONFEDERATION VIGOROUSLY CONDEMNED MEASURE AS ATTACK ON LABOR INTERESTS ENACTED BEHIND WORKERS BACKS. INTERSINDICAL EMPHASIZED ITS CLAIM THAT DECREE VIOLATES ARTICLES 55, 56, 58, AND 69 OF THE CONSTITUTION. IT SENT A DELEGATION TO PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES TO REQUEST THAT HE RULE THE DECREE UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

D) PS: A SPOKESMAN SAID THAT DECREE WAS INDISPENSABLE FOR RESTORATION OF NORMAL COMPANY OPERATIONS, A CHANGE WHICH IS NECESSARY FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

E) PPD: THE PARTY STATED THAT DECREE INSTITUTIONALIZES WORKERS CONTROL IN A DEMOCRATIC AND RESPONSIBLE WAY.

2. COMMENT: BOTH SOCIALIST AND POPULAR DEMOCRATIC SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY DO NOT EXPECT THE PRESIDENT TO PROMULGATE THE DECREE LAW AS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. FAILURE OF THE PRESIDENT TO ACT HAS THE EFFECT OF A POCKET VETO AND WILL ADD A CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE TO THE ASSEMBLY'S AGENDA. THE CONSTITUTION IS SUFFICIENTLY VAGUE ON THE DEFINITION OF "WORKER CONTROL" TO MAKE A CONSTITUTIONAL TEST ON THIS ISSUE LIKELY.
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